



Northern State University Aberdeen, South Dakota

Location

Northern State University is located in Aberdeen, South Dakota, the state's third largest city and the trade, manufacturing, educational, cultural and medical center for northeastern South Dakota, southeastern North Dakota and western Minnesota.

Campus

NSU boasts one of the most beautiful campuses in the Midwest, with an award-winning facilities management team to maintain its pleasant and collegial setting. Trees shade its 72 acres, and during the spring, summer and fall, flowers bloom along walkways. Every point on campus is within easy walking distance of the Aberdeen city center.

The Beulah Williams Library, the NSU Student Center and the Barnett Center particularly reflect the attention Northern pays to its students' development academically, socially and physically. A major expansion of the Williams Library completed in 1996 has tripled its size; the facility houses media services, NSU-TV and



distance education studios as well as providing study seating for 400 students (including eight study rooms and multimedia study stations). The library collection includes more than 187,800 titles, nearly 880 newspaper and journal subscriptions and more than 349,660 microfilm units. Williams Library is also a depository for S.D. and U.S. government documents, and its collections are fully accessible through the S.D. Library Network.



When Northern dedicated its newly expanded and renovated NSU Student Center in 1999, it opened a one-stop facility for student services offices such as activities, residence life, health services, counseling and career development as well as providing refurbished homes for the NSU Bookstore, a gallery, Thunder's Lair and the Wolves Den. The facility is at the center of the campus's life, providing open areas for study, relaxation and socializing.

The Joseph H. Barnett Physical Education Complex and Convocation Center features offices, classrooms, a 160-meter track, a 25-meter six-lane pool, wrestling and weight rooms, dance and gymnastics, training rooms, tennis, volleyball, racquetball/handball/squash and basketball courts. The Northern State Wolves compete in the NCAA.

All of the university's facilities offer pleasing useful buildings for study, living, recreation, culture or socializing, from the newly renovated School of Education building, the Gerber Building, to the university's oldest structure, Lydia Graham Hall, which houses administrative offices, dining facilities and community organizations. The Johnson Fine Arts Center welcomes tens of thousands of people each year to its 1,000-seat theater, classroom and smaller recital halls.

History: Century Celebrated

Northern State University enjoys a happy, working relationship with the community of Aberdeen, and has done so for more than 100 years. Once dedicated almost exclusively to teacher preparation, NSU has become a comprehensive four-year and graduate institution that provides programs in arts and sciences, business, education and fine arts. More than 40 major and 40 minor fields of study are offered.

In its centennial year of 2001-2002, the university was given an expanded mission in E-learning, which, while certainly offering technology and education for the 21st century working world, is in keeping with Northern's 100-year history of offering innovative and relevant opportunities to its students.

Statement of Purpose

Northern State University is a multipurpose, regional institution of higher education, authorized for the people of South Dakota by the South Dakota Legislature. Founded as a normal and industrial school to serve the northern part of the state, the University has diversified its offerings to address the emerging needs of the students, community, and region. Teacher preparation remains an important feature of the institutional mission, as do programs in the arts and sciences, business, and fine arts. Through undergraduate and graduate programs, the university provides quality teaching and learning. Distance delivery technology is a core mission in all degree programs, especially all levels of teacher preparation. Offering students a breadth and depth in the liberal arts and in professional studies, the university develops effective and productive professionals and citizens. Further, the university creates and nurtures a community of students, faculty, and staff, supporting communication, student and faculty research, and professional growth. Northern State University has designed programs to meet academic, social, cultural, and economic needs of the community and area, providing lifelong learning opportunities, a center for the arts and recreation, and support for regional development.

Accreditation

Northern State University is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

It is also accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, is a member of the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences and a member of the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business and the American Council of Learned Societies.

Northern State University is also a member of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the American Council on Education and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

The Carnegie Commission's rating of the nation's institutions of higher education (according to the scope of their programs) has classified Northern State University as a Master's (comprehensive) Universities and Colleges I institution.

Curricula

Northern State University is a multipurpose, multilevel state institution operating on a semester basis and offering the following programs: 1) Bachelor of Arts degree with majors in the arts, humanities, sciences and social sciences; 2) Bachelor of Science degree with majors in natural and social sciences; 3) Bachelor of Science in Education; 4) Bachelor of Music Education; 5) Master of Science in Education; 6) Master of Science in E-learning; 7) Associate of Arts; and 8) Preprofessional programs.

Services

Providing basic arts and sciences curriculum with professional programs in business, education, fine arts and graduate degrees in education and e-learning, Northern State University offers excellent preparation for nearly every career field for a 21st century globalized work place. Its modest size (around 3,000 students) and a 19:1 student-to-faculty ratio give students access to faculty in and out of the classroom.

The more opportunities a student has to interact with his or her professors, the more the educational experience will be. The faculty shapes academic experience by encouraging, motivating, challenging, explaining and refusing to accept the mediocre.

Northern has one of the best student-to-computer ratios in the nation at 4.1 to 1. Northern's focus on technology means that cutting-edge computers and applications are put to use in all fields of study to produce graduates who not only have a firm knowledge base, but also significant proficiency and creativity in the use of technology in their career fields.

Northern's University College offers students support in academic areas of college life through its math and writing centers as well as other initiatives that help students make a successful transition from high school to college or from the office to the classroom.

NSU serves as the cultural, entertainment and athletic center for the region with its Williams Library providing a center for continuing study enrichment. The university's many galleries and broad range of fine arts performances draw people from the region to the campus and the city of Aberdeen week after week. The Barnett Center and Swisher field host games and tournaments that draw thousands.

Enrollment

Enrollment for the 2004 fall semester at NSU was 2,284.